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Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends ONUMOZ mandate until new Mozambican Government takes office, but no later than 15 December; authorizes Operation to complete residual tasks before withdrawal by 31 January 1995.

+ Security Council says there must be no further delay in holding of self-determination referendum in Western Sahara; expresses concern at slow pace of voter identification process.

+ Secretary-General meets with President of Haiti in Port-au-Prince; says United Nations will continue to assist country on road to national reconciliation, stability and reconstruction.

+ Iraq informs Secretary-General it accepts Kuwait's sovereignty, territorial integrity and international boundaries; Security Council says it will maintain sanctions regime against Iraq without change.

+ General Assembly adopts resolutions on cooperation between United Nations and CSCE, OIC and League of Arab States.

+ Administrative and Budgetary Committee approves draft resolution on principle of capacity to pay as fundamental criterion for determining Member States' contributions.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations says departmental restructuring has enhanced United Nations peace-keeping capacity; stresses need for proper financing to consolidate gains.

+ UNPROFOR issues strong protest after Bosnian Serb forces fire up to ten missiles into Bihac pocket; Tuzla shelled for second day running.

+ Georgian and Abkhaz parties resume talks in Geneva under chairmanship of Special Envoy Brunner.

+ United Nations to hold new round of talks with Government of Myanmar in Yangon from 21 to 23 November.

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For information media--not an official record

The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) until the country's newly-elected Government takes office, but no later than 15 December. The Operation's current mandate ends today. By unanimously adopting resolution 957 (1994), the Council authorized ONUMOZ to complete residual operations before its withdrawal by 31 January 1995. It also approved the schedule set out by the Secretary-General for the safe and orderly withdrawal of military and civilian personnel by that date.

The Council welcomed the elections held in Mozambique from 27 to 29 October. It reiterated its intention to endorse the results, should the United nations declare the elections free and fair, and called on the parties to accept and fully abide by them. The Council also called on the parties to complete the process of national reconciliation based on a system of multi-party democracy and the observance of democratic principles, as provided for in the General Peace Agreement.

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The Security Council today said that there must be no further undue delay in the holding of a free, fair and impartial referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, in accordance with the United Nations Settlement Plan for the territory. In a statement read out by its President, Madeleine Albright (United States), the Council concurred with the Secretary-General's view that the 28 August launching of the identification and registration of potential voters was a significant step towards fulfilment of the United Nations mandate on Western Sahara.

The Council expressed concern over the slow speed of the identification process and the small proportion of potential voters that had so far been interviewed. While recognizing the logistical difficulties involved, it urged the parties to take all possible efforts to facilitate the work of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and urged the earliest possible deployment of the Identification Commission staff already approved by the General Assembly.

The Council also welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to visit the region later this month. It looked forward to receiving his report, and the report of the technical team charged with reassessing requirements for the deployment of MINURSO.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today left Headquarters for a brief visit to Haiti, according to a United Nations spokesman. After arriving in Port-au-Prince, he went to the Presidential Palace, where he met with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. They discussed national reconciliation, reinforcement of democratic institutions, revitalization of the Haitian economy, forthcoming elections, the future of the police force, restructuring of the army and reform of the judicial system.

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The Secretary-General later attended a formal luncheon in his honour at the President's residence. In a brief toast, he congratulated Mr. Aristide on his return to Haiti. He assured him that the United Nations, in collaboration with the Organization of American States (OAS), would continue to assist the country on the road to national reconciliation, political stability and reconstruction.

Before leaving for an official visit to Jamaica, the Secretary-General was scheduled to meet with United Nations staff and members of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) and the International Civilian Mission (MICIVIH).

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Iraq has informed the Secretary-General that it has recognized the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and international boundaries of Kuwait. It did so in a letter from the Iraqi Foreign Minister, which was delivered to the Secretary-General by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz yesterday. Attached to the letter were the following documents: the Declaration of the National Assembly, the Decree of the Revolutionary Command Council signed by its Chairman, President Saddam Hussein, and the copy of the National Gazette in which the Declaration and Decree recognizing Kuwait were published.

The Secretary-General described that development as a step forward, and expressed the hope that Iraq would continue to cooperate with the United Nations to ensure full compliance with all Security Council resolutions.

The Secretary-General also received the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at his request, with whom he discussed the situation in the region following Iraq's recognition of Kuwait. The Kuwaiti Foreign Minister stressed the importance of resolving all the other outstanding issues. The Secretary-General assured him that the United Nations would continue to follow the situation closely.

The Security Council yesterday reviewed the sanctions regime against Iraq and decided to continue it without change, according to President Madeleine Albright (United States). In remarks to correspondents, she said the Council had discussed the full range of Iraq's behaviour, including its recognition of Kuwait.

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The General Assembly today welcomed the increased cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and supported the activities of the CSCE to contribute to stability and the maintenance of peace within its area. In a resolution adopted without a vote, the Assembly emphasized that long CSCE missions were an example of preventive diplomacy and had helped counteract the risk of violence in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and

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Montenegro). It also supported the activities of the CSCE to achieve a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Nagorny-Karabakh and to alleviate tension between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

In another resolution adopted without a vote, the Assembly called on United Nations agencies and programmes to strengthen cooperation with the League of Arab States. It said they should increase contacts and improve the mechanism of consultation, and implement projects and programmes in the Arab region. The Assembly also decided that a general meeting between the United Nations system and the League should take place every two years.

The Assembly adopted another resolution encouraging expanded cooperation between the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). It said that cooperation agreements should be negotiated, and that the two organizations should hold consultations on a regular basis.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) today approved a draft resolution by which the General Assembly would create a working group to study implementation of the principle of capacity to pay as the fundamental criterion for determining the scale of assessments for apportioning United Nations expenses. The ad hoc intergovernmental working group would consist of 25 experts in economics, finance and statistics, to be appointed by the Assembly President with regard for geographical representation and economic diversity. Its report to the Assembly, to be submitted by 15 May 1995, would help the Committee on Contributions to simplify the methods for determining the scale of contributions.

By the terms of the draft, the Assembly would request the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States, cooperate with institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and provide the group with all necessary support. It would decide that the group's activities should be funded from existing resources, but would welcome Member States' voluntary contributions.

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The United Nations Secretariat has undertaken many initiatives to enhance the Organization's peace-keeping capacity, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations, Kofi Annan, has told the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization). He said there had been a "drastic restructuring" of the Department of Peace-Keeping Operations.

A 24-hour Situation Centre had been set up and a division had been created to coordinate and plan activities of police forces, Mr. Annan continued. Two demining experts were now working with the Department, which expected to expand its training unit. Although Member States had offered strong support, supplying offices and staff at their own expense, there was a need for financing to maintain the Department's capability on a permanent basis. He underlined the need for States to paying one third of their

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assessed contributions as soon as a resolution was adopted establishing an operation.

Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria), Chairman of the Special Committee for Peace-keeping Operations, said peace-keeping had been employed in new and more challenging settings in the past year. Introducing the Special Committee's report, he stressed that the Organization's capacity to respond promptly to demands for peace-keeping depended on the willingness of States to accept its primary role in that area, and on their readiness to contribute the necessary resources.

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Bosnian Serb forces have fired seven to ten surface-to-air missiles adapted for surface-to-surface use into the Bihac pocket, according to a United Nations spokesman. He described the missiles as "a blunt instrument of terror being used against civilian populations", and said that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) had strongly protested their use. Meanwhile, fighting continued on the strategic plateau overlooking Bihac as the Bosnian Serbs attempted to win back more ground from Bosnian Government forces.

There was fighting elsewhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina today, the spokesman continued. Bosnian Serb forces shelled Tuzla for the second day in a row, while sniper fire prevented trams from running in Sarajevo, although no injuries were reported there.

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Talks between the Georgian and Abkhaz parties resumed today in Geneva under the chairmanship of Special Envoy Edouard Brunner, according to a United Nations spokesman. The talks, which are expected to last two or three days, are focusing on a comprehensive political settlement and the return of refugees and displaced persons.

In an opening statement, Mr. Brunner said the Secretary-General was prepared to convene and chair further talks in Geneva beginning on 2 December, if there were progress in the current talks.

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Pursuant to the dialogue initiated at the beginning of last month between the Secretary-General and the Government of Myanmar, a new round of talks will be held in Yangon from 21 to 23 November, a United Nations spokesman announced today. Rafeeuddin Ahmed, Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), will lead the United Nations delegation, which will arrive in Myanmar over the weekend.

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